Application Filed: September 08, 2003

Inventors: Michael Hattersley, et al.

Response to Office Action mailed August 19, 2009

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing underwriting and/or servicing of an financial account, comprising the steps of:

receiving <u>over a data network</u> account application information including a bank account information;

transferring over the data network depositing at least one randomly generated deposit amount to the bank account corresponding to the received bank account information;

receiving over the data network a deposit verification amount;

comparing <u>using a controller</u> the received deposit verification amount with the deposited at least one deposit amount; and

generating <u>using the controller</u> a financial account corresponding to the received account application information, where the financial account is electronically linked to the bank account:

wherein a balance amount of the bank account is periodically verified to confirm that the balance amount is equal to or greater than an outstanding balance amount of the financial account.

- 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further including the step of receiving over the data network a periodic debit transaction amount.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the periodic debit transaction amount is configured to be periodically debited from the bank account electronically to the financial account.

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4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the periodic debit transaction is

performed at 30 day interval.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the periodic debit transaction amount

includes one of a full balance of the financial account, a minimum payment amount of

the financial account, and a minimum payment amount of the financial account plus a

predetermined payment amount.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further including the step of

performing using the controller credit verification based on the received account

application information.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the step of performing <u>using</u>

the controller credit verification includes the steps of:

transmitting over the data network the account application information to a credit

bureau; and

receiving over the data network a credit history information corresponding to said

transmitted account application information.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the credit history information includes a

numeric representation of the account application information.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the financial account is a credit card

account.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further including the step of

generating using the controller a financial account default notification when the balance

amount of the linked bank account falls below a predetermined minimum level.

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11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 further including the step of

transmitting over the data network said financial account default notification.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for providing underwriting and/or servicing of an

financial account, comprising:

a data network:

a user terminal operatively coupled to said data network configured to transmit

and receive data therefrom;

a server terminal operatively coupled to said data network, said server terminal

further configured to:

receive account application information including a bank account

information from said user terminal;

deposit at least one deposit amount to the bank account corresponding to

the received bank account information:

receive a deposit verification amount from said user terminal;

compare the received deposit verification amount with the deposited at

least one deposit amount; and

generate a financial account corresponding to the received account

application information only when the compared deposit verification amount

matches the at least one deposit amount, where the financial account is

electronically linked to the bank account;

wherein a balance amount of the bank account is periodically verified to

confirm that the balance amount is equal to or greater than an outstanding

balance amount of the financial account.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the server terminal is further

configured to receive a periodic debit transaction amount from the user terminal.

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14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the server terminal is

configured to periodically debit said periodic debit transaction amount from the linked

bank account electronically to the financial account.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14 wherein the periodic debit

transaction is performed at 30 day interval.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the periodic debit

transaction amount includes one of a full balance of the financial account, a minimum

payment amount of the financial account, or a minimum payment amount of the

financial account plus a predetermined payment amount.

17. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the server terminal is further

configured to:

transmit the account application information to a credit bureau; and

receive a credit history information corresponding to said transmitted account

application information.

18. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the financial account is a credit card

account.

19. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the server terminal is configured to:

generate a financial account default notification when the balance amount of the

linked bank account falls below a predetermined minimum level; and

transmit said account default notification to the user terminal.

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20. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of providing underwriting and/or servicing of a financial account, comprising the steps of:

receiving account application information including a bank account information; depositing at least one <u>randomly generated</u> deposit amount to the bank account corresponding to the received bank account information;

receiving a deposit verification amount;

comparing the received deposit verification amount with the deposited at least one deposit amount; and

generating a financial account corresponding to the received account application information only when the compared deposit verification amount matches the at least one deposit amount, where the financial account is electronically linked to the bank account;

wherein a balance amount of the bank account is periodically verified to confirm that the balance amount is equal to or greater than an outstanding balance amount of the financial account.